

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE C20

THE WASHINGTON POST  
26 June 1981

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## 2 Ex-Agents Who Said No to Qaddafi

Every man has his price, the cynics say, and Libya's dictator, Muammar Qaddafi, has enough petrodollars to buy just about any man he wants.

But two former Central Intelligence Agency explosives experts resisted the temptation to make some easy money from Qaddafi. Their story is worth telling because it is apparently unique: They may be the only ones among many former CIA and Green Beret specialists approached by the Qaddafi regime who told him to get lost. And they did it on principle, refusing to let their expertise be used in Qaddafi's systematic campaign of assassination and terror.

Although they are named in secret government files, I have been asked to protect their identities. So let's call them Smith and Brown.

Qaddafi's "master terrorists," ex-CIA agents Ed Wilson and Frank Terpil, had hired a former CIA ordnance expert, John Henry Harper, to go to Libya and make tiny explosive devices that could be hidden in ashtrays, coat hangers and similar harmless-looking objects. During a demonstration of sophisticated timers, one failed to work and a Libyan officer was accidentally blown up.

Despite this mishap, Harper later wangled another contract out of Wilson — for \$100,000, according to the government's star witness against Terpil and Wilson, ex-CIA man Kevin Mulcahy. Harper flew back to Libya,

Mulcahy told my associate Dale Van Atta.

On one occasion, Harper rashly carried two cans of explosives — "enough to blow London off the map" — through Heathrow Airport, using a diplomatic passport. This unnerved Wilson, who decided Harper needed to be replaced.

So Wilson went head-hunting in the Washington area, and looked up Brown in Alexandria. Brown had retired from the CIA after 17 years' experience training others to fabricate, identify and disarm explosive devices used by terrorists.

The two ex-spooks met in the Holiday Inn at Tyson's Corner, a longtime CIA hangout, on Sept. 3, 1976. According to secret Justice Department files, "Wilson appeared quite desperate to hire an explosives expert as his current man in Libya, John Harper, had fallen flat on his face." Brown had known Harper as his contact when he needed materials for his CIA work.

"Wilson told [Brown] he wanted someone to train individuals in the fabrication and use of explosives in Libya," the secret files state. "Specifically, he was interested in camouflage devices such as lamps, bricks" and other objects.

Brown told Wilson he wasn't interested in the job because he "didn't want to do anything with Col. Qaddafi." Wilson persisted. He promised

Brown complete authority in selecting trainees, a \$90,000 tax-free salary deposited in a Swiss bank, a house, car, chauffeur, laboratory, and even a percentage of the dollar value of materials used to make the explosive devices.

Brown tried to pump Wilson. What, he asked, would he really be doing for Qaddafi? "You know, the colonel may sometimes have some young colonels or some officers or something that are getting out of line that he wants to send a present to," Wilson replied, according to the secret files.

Rebuffed by Brown, Wilson next called on Smith, in Sterling, Va. Wilson said something about clearing land mines in Libya, and again mentioned Harper, who, he said, was having "emotional problems."

Smith "decided as soon as he heard Qaddafi and Libya that he wasn't going to work for Wilson, but he wanted to hear Wilson's offer," the files state.

At one point, Wilson showed Smith an electronic firing device packed in a small prescription bottle with a piece of Styrofoam. Smith recognized it immediately. It was "similar in design to [one] which has been used by the Palestine Liberation Organization in terrorism actions throughout Europe... far too sophisticated" to be suitable for clearing mines. He told Wilson nothing doing.